

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A holder for assisting in holding a paint
container, comprising:

5 a sleeve adapted to receive a thumb of a hand; and
 a retainer connected to said sleeve adapted to
retain a handle of a paint container and allow a weight of the
paint container to be transferred to a remainder of the hand
supporting at a bottom of the paint container.

10 2. A holder as set forth in claim 1 wherein said
 sleeve is generally cylindrical in shape.

15 3. A holder as set forth in claim 1 wherein said
 sleeve is generally tubular in shape.

4. A holder as set forth in claim 1 wherein said
sleeve extends longitudinally to form a hollow interior.

20 5. A holder as set forth in claim 4 wherein said
 sleeve has at least one open end adapted to allow the thumb of
the hand to extend into said hollow interior.

25 6. A holder as set in claim 1 wherein said sleeve
 is made from a rigid material.

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7. A holder as set forth in claim 1 wherein said sleeve is made of a flexible material.

8. A holder as set forth in claim 7 wherein said sleeve is made from a strip of material extending longitudinally.

9. A holder as set forth in claim 1 including a fastener for fastening longitudinal ends of said strip of material together to form said sleeve.

10. A holder as set forth in claim 1 wherein said retainer has a general "U" shape.

15 11. A holder as set forth in claim 1 wherein said retainer is made of a spring material.

Sub A27 12. A holder as set forth in claim 1 wherein said retainer has a first end and a second end to form a hollow interior.

20 13. A holder as set forth in claim 11 wherein said first end is connected to said sleeve and said second end is movable relative to said first end.

14. A holder for assisting in holding a paint container, comprising:

a sleeve extending longitudinally to form a hollow interior with at least one open end adapted to receive a thumb
5 of a hand; and

a retainer connected to said sleeve and adapted to retain a handle of a paint container and allow a weight of the paint container to be transferred to a remainder of the hand supporting a bottom of the paint container.

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15. A holder as set forth in claim 14 wherein said sleeve is generally cylindrical in shape.

16. A holder as set forth in claim 14 wherein said
15 sleeve is made of a rigid material.

17. A holder as set forth in claim 14 wherein said sleeve is made of a flexible material.

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18. A holder as set forth in claim 14 wherein said sleeve is made from a strip of material extending longitudinally.

25 19. A holder as set forth in claim 14 wherein said retainer has a general "U" shape.

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20. A holder as set forth in claim 14 wherein said retainer is made of a spring material.

21. A holder as set forth in claim 14 wherein said 5 retainer has a first end and a second end to form a hollow interior.

Sure A37 22. A holder as set forth in claim 21 wherein said first end is connected to said sleeve and said second end is 10 movable relative to said first end.

23. A holder comprising:
a sleeve made of a flexible material having a wall extending longitudinally to form a hollow interior with at 15 least one open end adapted to receive a thumb of a hand; and a retainer made of a spring material connected to said wall of said sleeve and adapted to retain a handle of a paint container and allow a weight of the paint container to be transferred to a remainder of the hand supporting a bottom 20 of the paint container.